



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

MARIA M. OMS
CHIEF DEPUTY

ASST. AUDITOR-CONTROLLERS

ROBERT A. DAVIS
JOHN NAIMO
JUDI E. THOMAS

November 2, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TEEN'S HAPPY
HOME – TEEN'S HAPPY HOME GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Teen's Happy Home Group Home (Group Home or Agency), operated by Teen's Happy Home. The Group Home contracts with the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation.

Teen's Happy Home Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children.

Teen's Happy Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of our review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, employee records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address several deficient areas. Specifically, the Group Home needs to paint the walls and moldings throughout the Group Home, re-tile and re-grout the bathtub, repair and re-tile the bathroom floor and baseboards, repair the bathroom walls and purchase a DVD player for the children. The Group Home also needs to assess children for needed services within thirty days of placement and provide all children with current and comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are developed and implemented with input from the treatment team and the child. In addition, the Group Home needs to provide children with recreational activities, opportunities to plan recreational activities and participate in extra-curricular enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest and provide transportation to and from the activities. Finally, the group home needs to provide children with their \$50 monthly clothing allowance and their weekly allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management and DCFS. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Group Home management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank DCFS and Agency management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:MMO:JET:DC:AA:jdh

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Maurice Mitchell, Board President, Teen's Happy Home
Beautina Robinson, Executive Director, Teen's Happy Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Teen's Happy Home
Teen's Happy Home Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90062
License Number: 198203038
Rate Classification Level: 7**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Teen's Happy Home Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. The common quarters are neat, there is adequate furniture and lighting, and the Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the walls and moldings were stained and dirty, the bathtub grout and tile has mold, and the bathroom floor and walls are run-down.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean, orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, the beds all have a full complement of linens, and children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are board games and a TV. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available. However, there is no DVD player.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Teen's Happy Home management:

- a. Paint the walls and moldings throughout the Group Home.**
- b. Re-tile and re-grout the bathroom.**
- c. Repair and re-tile the bathroom floor.**
- d. Repair the bathroom walls.**

- e. Provide the children with a DVD player.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services. However, one child was not assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. In addition, one of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) reviewed was not current and comprehensive and was not developed and implemented with input from the treatment team and the child.

Recommendations

2. Teen's Happy Home management:

- a. Assess all children for needed services within thirty days of placement.
- b. Provide all children with current and comprehensive NSPs that are developed and implemented with input from the treatment team and the child.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school, are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills. Children are also provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient leisure time. However, children report they are not provided with sufficient recreational activities, opportunities to participate in planning activities and in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest. In addition, the Group Home does not provide transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations**3. Teen's Happy Home management:**

- a. Provide the children with recreational activities.
- b. Provide the children with opportunities to plan recreational activities.
- c. Provide the children with the opportunities to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.
- d. Provide the children with transportation to and from activities.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented. Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

None.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors, and attend religious services of their choice. Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care and report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Recommendation

None.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing and items of necessity. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes and the clothing provided is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, children are not provided with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items and children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books. Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide the children with their weekly allowance.

Recommendations

4. Teen's Happy Home management:

- a. Provide children with their \$50 monthly clothing allowance.**
- b. Provide children with their weekly allowance.**

VIII. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Sample size: Six

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

None.

Teens Happy Home
3936 S. Dalton Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90062

Jacquelyn Hayes, Group Home Monitor
Children's Group Home Ombudsman Division
350 S. Figueroa Street, 8th floor
Los Angeles, California 90071
(213) 253-0341
(323) 295-1001

April 13, 2009

The following is Teens Happy Home Group Homes' correction to CAP Program Audit Report.

Facility Environment

- a. Paint the walls and moldings throughout the home.
- b,c. Replace the tile and grout around the bathtub, repair and re-tile the bathroom floor, and repair the bathroom walls.
- d. Provide the resident's with a DVD player.

IMPLEMENTED: The bathroom at the facility has been fully remodeled/newly painted and the walls and moldings throughout the home fully repaired. The floor has been repaired and re-tiled as well as the tile and grout around the bathtub. A DVD player has also been provided for the residents. The Facility Manager will ensure that everything is properly maintained at all times.

Program Services

- a,b. The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSP's) with input from the child. The NSP's are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

IMPLEMENTED: All resident's are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. Input from the treatment team and the child has been added in the development and implementation for the NSP's. Dr. Matirko has developed a

calendar to ensure that future NSP's are submitted in a timely manner. Administrator will work with Dr. Matirko as a follow-up plan.

Recreation and Activities

- a,b,c. Teens Group Home provides children with sufficient leisure time. However, the Agency needs to provide the children with recreational activities and opportunities to participate in planning activities. Additionally, the Agency needs to provide children with the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

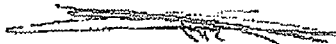
IMPLEMENTED: Resident's go out on various outings on a monthly basis. Resident's along with Staff and Administrator plan respective activities according to their interests and Action Rehabilitation's involvement. New activity calendar posted at the facility on a monthly basis. In addition, transportation to and from the activities will be provided by Group Home staff.

Clothing and Allowance

- a. Teens Group Home provides appropriate clothing and items of necessity. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. Children spend their allowances as they choose. In addition, the children are provided with adequate personal care items.

IMPLEMENTED: Administrator takes the resident's shopping with their \$50 monthly clothing allowance (every thirty days). In addition, minimum weekly allowance is given to resident's every seven days and documentation is in their files.

Respectfully,



Olga L. Ruiz
GH Administrator